

Attention FDA

0187 '00 MAY -4 AIO:37

It came to my attention that the FDA is being asked to take away my right to sign a medical waiver before purchasing a hearing aid. Instead I would be forced to have a medical exam or hearing test. Here's my views and/or experiences on several related questions?

1. Should I be forced to have a medical exam and/or hearing test before purchasing a hearing aid? If so, should the FDA pay for the exam? *I DO NOT BELIEVE I SHOULD BE FORCED TO BE EXAMINED BY AN AUDIOLOGIST BEFORE PURCHASING A HEARING AID. I'VE TAKEN THIS PATH BEFORE AND ALL I GOT FOR MY EFFORT AND EXPENSE WAS A TERSE RECOMMENDATION FOR A DEVICE COSTING NEAR \$3,000.00 WHICH I COULD NOT AFFORD. I THEN DISCOVERED EXCEL AND HAVE BEEN USING THEIR DEVICE AT A COST OF \$395.00.*
2. Some people are physically unable to drive to a doctor or hearing specialist, or have had bad experiences they don't want to repeat. For instance ... *I AM 73 YRS OLD, AND RECENTLY SUFFERED A STROKE WHICH HAS LEFT ME UNABLE TO DRIVE MY CAR SAFELY. I CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT TO POSE A DANGER TO MYSELF OR OTHERS BY DRIVING THRU DENSE TRAFFIC TO GET TO AN AUDIOLOGIST, WHICH I COULD NOT AFFORD ANYWAY.*
3. Should the FDA take away my Constitutional Right, affirmed by the Supreme Court, to decide for myself my medical exams and treatment? *I DO NOT BELIEVE THE FDA ^{SHOULD} TAKE AWAY MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO WAIVE, A HEARING EXAM PRIOR TO PURCHASE OF A HEARING AID.*
4. Should I be allowed to purchase hearing aids by mail as I choose? *YES. I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PURCHASE A HEARING AID BY MAIL IF I SO CHOOSE.*

Signed by:

Jose A. Valdes

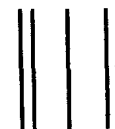
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